

# Asociación Social de la Tercera Edad de Jávea

## Minutes of General Assembly Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

### Committee Present:

President: Eric Atkins  
Vice President: Guy Marriott  
Secretary: Roy Brown  
Treasurer: Mick Cox  
Groups Coordinator: Karen White  
Membership Secretary: Sheila Giacomelli  
Communications officer: Ian Rogerson

### Apologies

None

### Location:

Parador, Jávea Arenal

The meeting commenced at 11.00am

## Welcome

Eric welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially new members and summarised the membership changes for this month - 22 new members, 92 renewals at the desk today, plus 52 by bank transfer since January's meeting.

Eric asked if anyone had read the minutes of the previous meeting (from last October!), and received an unexpectedly positive response. He then asked if they were approved and received unanimous agreement. Willing volunteers had been found in Mai Bolt and Marisa Blanco to propose and second the approval of the minutes which were thus duly signed off to a round of applause..

## President's Report

**Charity:** A cheque for €1321.21 was presented to two representatives Meike and Neus from the Jávea Red Cross ambulance service, the nominated charity for 2016.

Eric announced that the committee had decided that the charity for 2017 would be Make a Smile, which met with general approval from the assembly. Even though this is a Costa Blanca wide charity, rather than just Jávea, the work they do for disadvantaged and abused children was felt to be a very worthwhile cause.

**Group Leaders:** Eric thanked all the group leaders for their efforts throughout the year

After a lot of trial and error the story unfolded that Lorely Griffiths, the daughter of Gill Birch who had run the discussion group and who sadly died last year (Christine English subsequently took over the group leader position) has now taken over the family history group for established members – the first second generation group leader we have had in the U3A. At the same time Jean Miller, who had previously run both established and beginners family history is now concentrating on the beginners group only.

**New Groups:** Proposed new groups are Investment (Peter Burke), homeopathic medicine (expert needed) and ballroom dancing (expert needed). Watch the website for the start of activities.

**New VP:** Eric Introduced Guy Marriott as the new Vice President, saying that he was hopeful of keeping him for a while, having carelessly lost the previous two.

**Travel:** The trip to Asturias is now full.

**May Ball:** Over 100 tickets sold so far – the venue limit is 300 so you need to sign up promptly, especially if you want to take the bus. The €30 ticket price is fantastic value.

**Volunteers:** We are still looking for volunteers in all areas, so please don't hold back if you are able to offer any help at all.

**Voting:** Eric mused that clearly there is little incentive to vote as there is no opposition, but we, the committee, would appreciate the vote anyway as an indication of membership support for the work we do. It could be construed that not voting is in itself a vote of no confidence so we urge all members to cast their vote before the cut-off date (20<sup>th</sup> March)

Roger Barkley, the election auditor, reminded everyone that there are still some three weeks to go, but to date only 85 votes had been cast. Eric remarked that from a membership of 1300 this was not very good – were the 1200 or so non-voters trying to give us a message?

Post Meeting Note – the current count (7<sup>th</sup> March am) stands at 126, better but not brilliant.

## Treasurer's Report

Mick started with further “paraprosdokian” examples, culminating in “no matter how much you push the envelope – it's still stationery”

He then went on to explain that the committee had decided he didn't have enough work to do. The thinking was that a simple bank balance gave the impression that we were rolling in money, so we have changed the presentation to give the projected balance at the end of the year. As of this morning (not including today's payments) the figures were:-

Projected new member income	€3000
Projected membership renewal income	€6000
Received to date	€6351
Current Bank Balance	€37293
Budgeted annual expenditure	€19500
Money held for travel etc.	€14858
Giving a projected end of year balance of	€5500

This shows that we are positive at the end of this year's activities, and hopefully gives a better understanding of where the money is coming from and going to.

Mick finished with a plea that all bank transfers are accompanied not just by the name and membership number but also the event reference code, so he knows what it's for.

## AOB

It was remarked that the on-line voting system does not work with AOL – the recommendation is to switch browsers to IE, Chrome etc. where the system functions correctly. Betty Guinness also pointed out that the system does not work with Android devices.

Eric then introduced our:-

## Guest Speaker, Angela Chantry

Angela gave a very interesting insight into the development of the U3A from its inception in France in 1968 to the worldwide organisation it is today. After covering the many initiatives developed by the U3A now available in the public domain, she concluded with one specific example of other initiatives (not U3A) available via the web – a virtual conference lasting a week, comprising 30 minute segments purported to change the way you think about the rest of your life, starting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We then all joined the Barnsley U3A who sang about the many reasons for joining the U3A to the tune “the answer is blowing in the wind” - possibly very apt.

Angela proposed that those who wanted links to the world wide U3A organisations should e-mail her, or better still she would send them to Clive to publish on the website if that was OK. Clive agreed, and the links are now available on the website

## Thanks

Eric thanked Angela for her talk, and presented her with a gift of (strangely Eric's favourite) wine.

Eric thanked the assembly for coming and looked forward to seeing everyone at the AGM next month.

The meeting closed at 12:11pm

Proposed by (print name) ..... Signed .....

Seconded by (print name) ..... Signed .....

President..... Secretary .....